QRs provided for in Article XI. Article XVIII B covers developing countries. Article XVIII B is designed to take into account the interests of members whose economies can only support low standards of living and are in the early stages of development. A member taking recourse to Article XVIII B is required to have periodic consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions.

India, in recent years, has had consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions in 1994 (siplified consultations) and in 1995 (full consultations). During the 1995 consultations India had been asked to present a firm time-table for the phasing out of restrictions as the general feeling was that due to the improved foreign exchange position, India can no longer take recourse to BOP cover.

India has recently notified all the QRs maintained by it to the WTO Secretariat in fulfilment of its earlier obligations. The lifting of QRs has been cited in the 8th Plan document also and is in consonance with and in keeping with our own objectives of liberalisation keeping the likely impact on the domestic industry as well as on the agriculture sector. The whole issue is under examination.

(c) Since India is maintaining QRs for BOP purposes, the consultations in this regard with WTO are likely to be held shortly.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Clearance to Holiday Resort

586. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a Holiday resort is being constructed at Morkal in the Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the clearance has been obtained from the Central Government for its construction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received so far in this Ministry for environment clearance.

Smuggling of Girls to Jedah

587. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen reports regarding 'sale' of wives, through touts or otherwise, in Murshidabad district for being taken to Jedah;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sugarcane

588. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the purchase of Sugarcane by the Mills in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Jaunpur and Bhadohi districts;

(b) the quantity of cane purchased upto January, 1997 through various purchasing centres as against the targets fixed therefor;

(c) the reasons for low purchasing of cane as compared to the prescribed targets; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target prescribed for the purchase of cane and the facilities being provided to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Ban on Use of Pesticides

589. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banned toxic pesticides like ENDOSULFAN is freely available in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this pesticide is being marketed in India under as many as 48 brand names;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ban its use ?